

Dear children, young people and adults of all ages

I am writing to invite your innermost longings on a voyage.

The chest you see before you will be placed in the female sculpture, "My Ship is Loaded with Longing", part of the Life-boats project. She will be the first ship of the three (12m long) sculptural ships in cement that will be launched in North Jutland and will sail on the European canals.

This chest is the first step - the first stage of the "Life-boats" project on the full scale. The idea is to involve as broad an audience throughout Europe as possible, starting at Fríis.

In the chest you can place love letters, poems etc. which you may have lying around - and which you may not have dared to send or show to anyone, but which you don't really want to throw away. The texts about your dreams and longings can also be written on-site. (Please use the paper and pens that are lying here). These can be placed in the chest and mixed with the hopes and longings of others. The chest will sail out into the unknown and collect more texts from many other places. It is sealed and will never be opened.

"What is so open that it cannot be revealed and what is so intimate that you want to keep it to yourself?" by placing your text in the chest, you don't have to explain anything to anyone or reveal yourself.

What are the boundaries of modesty for the written word in our era of mobile and internet communication?

Many people have stopped writing letters. All communication takes place quickly. One doesn't wait longingly for a reply for days - weeks - months. Generation 30+ wrote love letters and handwritten poems, which were kept in a secret place, if one didn't dare to send them by post. If they did get sent and an answer was received, then these were read many times and hidden well. Many people have looked after these kinds of valuable personal letters their entire lives.

I work physically with my art. The digital for me is a tool for necessary, practical communication, but not for the most intimate thoughts. Does handwritten become more private than what is written or stored on the computer? Is the personal computer or mobile today's private/secret treasure chest?

I hope you will sail with us - both in spirit and in your words.

Best wishes from Marit Benthe Norheim

